

Claims 1-11 are pending, and claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for beneficial control of body condition and dietary energy partition for increased milk yield in dairy cattle during colostrum milk production after calving, which method comprises feeding the postpartum dairy cattle with a feedstock comprising: (1) a high-energy nutritionally-balanced ration adapted for postpartum lactating dairy cattle, and having a dietary cation-anion difference (DCAD) value between about -60 meq/100 g dietary DM; and (2) ~~eongugated~~conjugated linoleic acid derivative having rumen-bypass properties, and provided in a daily quantity which is effective for lowering and maintaining the milk fat content of colostrum milk in the range between about 4-6 weight percent.
2. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the dietary energy balance deficit of the dairy cattle is less than about -10 Mcal/cow/day during colostrum milk production.
3. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the ration has a content of rumen-bypass protein, and slow-release degradable nitrogen source for efficient rumen fermentation.

4. (currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the quantity of effective ~~conjugated~~conjugated linoleic acid derivative in the feedstock is in the range between about 0.3-1 gram CLA/kg dietary DM.
5. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the conjugated linoleic acid derivative is in the form of calcium salt and/or magnesium salt and/or carboxylic acid amide and/or polymer-encapsulated matrix.
6. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the effective constituent of the conjugated linoleic acid derivative comprises trans-10, cis-12 structural isomer, and wherein the conjugated linoleic acid derivative comprises less than about 20 weight percent of cis-9, trans-11 structural isomer.
7. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the feeding is at a rate which provides between about 5-15 grams CLA/cow/day of effective conjugated linoleic acid derivative as sufficient for beneficial control of body condition and dietary energy partition in the postpartum dairy cattle.
8. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the feeding is at a rate which provides between about 4-12 grams/cow/day in the cow intestine of trans-10, cis-12 conjugated linoleic acid rumen-bypass derivative.

9. (original) A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein the milk yield over the lactating cycle of the dairy cattle is increased between about 14-22 percent.
10. (currently amended) A feedstock adapted for beneficial control of the dietary energy balance deficit in postpartum dairy cattle at a level less than about 10 Mcal/cow/day during colostrum milk production, which feedstock comprises (1) a high-energy nutritionally-balanced ration adapted for postpartum lactating dairy cattle, and having a dietary cation-anion difference (DCAD) between about 0-60 meq/100 g dietary DM; and (2) between about 0.3-1 gram/kg dietary DM of conjugated linoleic acid derivative having rumen-bypass properties, and which ~~deivative~~derivative comprises trans-10, cis-12 structural isomer, and which contains less than about 20 weight percent of cis-9, trans-11 structural isomer.
11. (original) A feedstock in accordance with claim 10 wherein the conjugated linoleic acid derivative is in the form of calcium salt and/or magnesium salt and/or carboxylic acid amide and/or polymer-encapsulated matrix.